

October 5, 1998

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Air Resources Board's (ARB) staff will hold a stakeholders meeting to discuss the need to re-evaluate the motor vehicle fuel specifications for compressed natural gas (CNG).

The staff are aware that there are certain areas in California where it is difficult to maintain compliance with the CNG specifications for motor vehicle fuel. These areas are in the South Central Coast and in certain parts of the San Joaquin Valley where CNG is produced in association with oil production. Compressed natural gas produced in these areas marginally exceed the ethane specification and may exceed other specifications. Currently, compliance is maintained with the CNG specifications by fuel blending.

Motor vehicle test data indicate that light-duty vehicles may be able to operate on a broader range of CNG fuel properties. Additionally, motor vehicle test data on advance closed-loop medium- and heavy-duty engines indicate similar performance. Although adequate emission test data exists for light-duty vehicles, there are not adequate emission test data on medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

The objective of the meeting will be to discuss if it is appropriate to consider changes to the CNG motor vehicle fuel specifications and, if so, what process is needed to thoroughly evaluate appropriate adjustments to the CNG specifications. The process may incorporate a series of performance and emission test programs. An agenda is enclosed. The meeting will be held at the following:

Date: October 29, 1998
Time: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Location: Sacramento Convention Center
1030 15th Street
Rooms 311, 312, 313
Sacramento, California 95814

Please note that the meeting will be held following the "Diesel Advisory Committee" meeting in Sacramento, California on the same date and location.

For more information or to be included on the agenda, please contact Mr. Gary M. Yee, Manager, Industrial Section at (916) 327-5986, or by email at gyee@arb.ca.gov.

The meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If accommodation is needed, please contact Ms. Jacqueline Wilson at (916) 327-1493 or TTD (916) 342-9531, or (800) 700-8327 for TTD calls outside the Sacramento area, by October 19, 1998.

Sincerely,

//s//

Dean C. Simeroth, Chief
Criteria Pollutants Branch
Stationary Source Division

Enclosure

cc: Gary M. Yee, Manager
Industrial Section

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California Environmental Protection Agency

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